



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.1707 | FAX (517) 373.3935  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/toy/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/toy/)

For Immediate Release  
January 4, 2006

Contact: Heather Lombardini  
(517) 373-1707

## **Sen. Laura Toy announces new sex offender laws in effect**

**LANSING** – Tough new laws to protect Michigan’s children from sexual predators took effect January 1, 2006, said state Senator Laura M. Toy, R-Livonia.

Among them is Sen. Toy’s legislation to create “School Safety Zones” that prohibit convicted sex offenders from living, working, or loitering within 1,000 feet of school property.

“If you’ve been convicted of a sex crime against a child, you should not be working in a school or day-care center, period,” Sen. Toy said. “With the enactment of my legislation, convicted sex offenders are now prohibited from loitering or trying to purchase a home next to a school as well.”

In addition to Sen. Toy’s School Safety Zone initiative, 17 other bills signed last fall became law Jan. 1. The bills require background checks on employees in public schools and day-care centers, allow evidence of prior sex crimes to be considered as character evidence during criminal trials, and prevent teachers who are convicted as sex offenders from returning to the classroom.

“The laws that became effective at the start of this year will help make it a safer one for children in our state,” Sen. Toy said. “Youngsters rely on us for their sense of security and we must do everything possible to protect them from harm.”

The new laws contain strict requirements for those on the state’s Sex Offender Registry to notify authorities immediately when changing their residence. They also increase penalties for convicted sex offenders who fail to report accurate residency information.

Sen. Toy’s School Safety Zone legislation became Public Act 121 of 2005.

###